

**UNPUBLISHED**

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

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**No. 03-7816**

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CURTIS LEE SLADE,

Petitioner - Appellant,

versus

GENE JOHNSON, Director, Virginia Department of  
Corrections,

Respondent - Appellee.

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Appeal from the United States District Court for the Western  
District of Virginia, at Roanoke. Jackson L. Kiser, Senior  
District Judge. (CA-03-539-7)

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Submitted: March 25, 2004

Decided: March 31, 2004

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Before TRAXLER, KING, and DUNCAN, Circuit Judges.

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Dismissed by unpublished per curiam opinion.

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Curtis Lee Slade, Appellant Pro Se.

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Unpublished opinions are not binding precedent in this circuit.  
See Local Rule 36(c).

PER CURIAM:

Curtis Lee Slade seeks to appeal the district court's order denying relief on his petition filed under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 (2000). The order is not appealable unless a circuit justice or judge issues a certificate of appealability. 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(1) (2000). A certificate of appealability will not issue absent "a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right." 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2) (2000). A prisoner satisfies this standard by demonstrating that reasonable jurists would find that his constitutional claims are debatable and that any dispositive procedural rulings by the district court are also debatable or wrong. See Miller-El v. Cockrell, 537 U.S. 322, 336 (2003); Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000); Rose v. Lee, 252 F.3d 676, 683 (4th Cir. 2001). We have independently reviewed the record and conclude that Slade has not made the requisite showing. Accordingly, we deny a certificate of appealability and dismiss the appeal. We dispense with oral argument because the facts and legal contentions are adequately presented in the materials before the court and argument would not aid the decisional process.

DISMISSED